

till they occupy their due share. (To Dr. B. S. Bordon, 1801. F. VII., 489.)

OFFICES.—I have never removed a man merely because he was a Federalist; I have never wished them to give a vote at the election, but according to their own wishes. But as no government could discharge its duties to the best advantage of its citizens if its agents were in a regular course of thwarting instead of executing all its measures (and were employing the patronage and influence of their offices against the government and its measures), I have only requested they would be quiet, and they should be safe; that if their conscience urges them to take an active and zealous part in opposition, it ought also to urge them to retire from a post which they could not conscientiously conduct with fidelity to the trust reposed in them; and on failure to retire, I have removed them; that is to say, those who maintained an active and zealous opposition to the government. (To John Page, 1807. C. V., 136.)

OHIO RIVER.—The Ohio is the most beautiful river on earth. Its current gentle, waters clear, and bosom smooth and unbroken and rapid, a single instance only excepted. (From "Notes on Virginia," 1782. F. III., 93.)

OLIGARCHY.—I fear the oligarchical executive of the French will not do. We have always seen a small council get into cabals and quarrels, the more bitter and relentless the fewer they are. We saw this in our committee of the States; and that they were from their bad passions incapable of doing the business of the country. I think that for the prompt, clear and consistent action so necessary in an executive unity of person is necessary as with us. (To John Adams, 1796. F. VII., 56.)

OPINION.—For even if we differ in principle more than I believe we do, you and I know too well the texture of the human mind and the slipperiness of human reason to consider differences of opinion otherwise than differences of form or feature. Integrity of views more than their soundness is the basis of esteem. (To Elbridge Gerry, 1799- F. VII., 335.)

OSSIAN.—The poems of Ossian have been and will, I think during my life, continue to be to me the sources of daily pleas-